

BOOK AND TRACT WORK.

J. D. MCFABEN.

Owing to a most wretched throat trouble which compelled me to go slow, I have been silent in these columns, for the past several weeks. I felt the effects of an accident which ran me near the eternal line, but I feel as though I should again do some work for the book and tract cause, directly as well as indirectly.

Tract Work in the Conventions.—The Ohio Convention did a good work along this line. Brother Moomaw and Kimmel planted seed in their articles that must result in good. It is such work that tells. Let every convention held keep this subject before the minds of the people. Correct ideas are the life of the church, and life giving ideas must be sent where they will reach the people. Many of whom can only be reached with literature.

Books of the ancient.—The "Rosetta stone" is an ancient book. "In the delta of the Nile, in the little town of Rosetta, in 1799, was discovered what is probably the most celebrated of inscriptions, known as the "ROSETTA STONE," and now in the British Museum. It is a thick, irregular-shaped slab of hard, black basalt, three feet three inches by two feet six inches, on the surface of which is an inscription in three languages—Egyptian hieroglyphics, Demotic and Greek. A translation shows that it was an act of the priests assembled in synod at Memphis, B. C. 196—197, in honor of the King Ptolemy Epiphanes in the ninth year of his reign; and after reciting the events of the period, proceeds to order that a figure of the king should be placed in the temples; that a shrine should be placed with the other shrines and be carried in procession on a special festival in honor of the king, on the 30th merori, his birthday, and, above all, that a copy of this synodical act should be engraved on a tablet of hard stone in sacred characters (hieroglyphics) in writing of the country, and in Greek letters, and set up in every temple of the first, second and third rank throughout the country. The great interest centering in this tablet is that it gave the first clue to the hieroglyphics. The three texts of this inscription telling the same story, together with the obelisk of Philæ, rendered the translation of the heretofore unreadable hieroglyphics comparatively simple."

Other Stone Books.—There is "The moabite stone," the "black Obelisk of Shalmaneser II," the "Temple Stone," etc., all important, not only linking to

the past, but evidence of Bible truth and church teachings. The owners of Ward's Natural Science establishment have moulds taken from the originals, from which plaster casts are made, and so colored that they are fac-similes of the originals. These are framed in oak, and are most appropriate for libraries and College halls. Some one with love for Ashland, could add to her College by presenting a set of these historic books.

Our Work Perpetual.—The Master's promise, "I am with you always," means continual work on the part of the church, and in our literary work we should remember that eyes unborn are to scan and be impressed by what we are now doing. Our pamphlets and books are to witness for us in the future, and their ideas should be based on the rock, and point to the rock.

United Work Successful.—In our book work and our mission work, there must be united work. Without such work success will only be partial.

Mr. William Steinway, in *Music*, writes of the visit that Rubinstein made to this country in 1872, and recalls some interesting and touching personal reminiscences of the great musician. Among other things he relates the following incident:

"Before he left New York for his *tournee* through the country he called at Steinway Hall one afternoon about five o'clock, for his mail. A bulky, registered letter had come for him, and it contained letters from his children, a long letter from his wife, and a newly taken photograph of his family. The tears came to his eyes as he said to me, 'Friend Steinway, I feel so happy that I must play for you.' Meantime it had grown late, and everything was closed for the day. Four other musical gentlemen whom he knew personally had come in, and the doors were closed, when he sat down at the piano to play for us. Twelve o'clock at night still found us there, spell bound, for such heavenly music we had never heard before. Then, and only then, I realized what four celebrated men could do—Goethe, who wrote the poem of the 'Erl King'; Franz Schubert, who had composed the melody; Franz Liszt, who had transcribed it for piano-forte, and Antio Rubinstein, who could play it."

Goethe, Schubert, Liszt and Rubinstein, each at work in his own way, in his own sphere, but in this instance of matchless musical effect, all working together. So nicely had each done his own particular portion that there was perfect harmony in the composite whole.

And what did Paul teach the church in Corinth, that church broken up into parties, where the members were saying: "I am of Paul, and I of Apollos, and I of Cephas, and I of Christ?" He taught the Corinth Christians the lesson that Mr. Steinway learned on that memorable night, from the playing of his friend Rubinstein, what four celebrated men could do. "Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one. For we are laborers together with God."

CONSOLIDATION.

D. C. M.

The last number of the EVANGELIST, No. 25, contains brother H. R. Holsinger's response to the request for his views on the subject of a union of the Progressive and German Baptist forces. Brother H. is preeminently entitled to distinguished honor, (honor to whom honor is due) for the moral heroism that he displayed in the long contest that led up to the establishment of the Brethren church, and his words on the subject of "consolidation" merit great respect.

No person in the Progressive brotherhood knows the true inwardness, and the other wise outwardness, of the fold with which we solicit consolidation than Brother H., and no one knows better than he what essentials are necessary to a *desirable* union. Brother H. in the article of No. 25, happily strikes the key note on the subject, and every element entering into it are specifically enumerated. There *must be love, harmony, forbearance, confidence*, in all their multiplied variations before a union is *desirable*. Brother H. says pertinently that these conditions *do not exist now*, and we bear testimony to the truth of his allegation. One significant fact confronts us and that is the *utter silence* of the G. B. organ, the G. M., on the subject. It is known to directly reflect the sentiments of the ruling element of its denomination.

Were there any desire on their part for such a consummation it would find expression through their church organ. This is undesirable. Our paper has repeatedly "spoken the mind" of many of our leaders, and our editor has officially recognized the existence and importance of the movement, and a State Conference has taken initial action in the matter, and yet not one word of response from the other side has come to our ears. What does this silence pretend? Yet we have a high duty to perform to officially present the offer of union to them, and help thus far to fulfil the last loving prayer of our Lord, that "his people may be one." We should go on as we have begun and place our-